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ATTN PARIS FOR MARK PRATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, XC, US

SUBJECT: MARCH 20 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDONESIA

MORE THAN 60 STUDENTS INJURED LAST WK WHEN THEY TRIED RESIST
SECURITY OFFICERS DURING SERIES ANTI-GOVT DEMONSTRATIONS
THRUOUT INDONESIA (AP JAKARTA, WP 3/18).

2. THAILAND

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NEW RTG CONSTITUTION, DRAFTED AS PART OF PKG PROMISED BY
KRIANGSAK GOVT, WILL, IF APPROVED, PROVIDE EQUAL RTS FOR
WOMEN/ALLOW PRINCESSES SUCCEED TO THRONE IF NO MALE HEIRS.
ALSO PROVIDES FOR GEN ELECTIONS TO BE HELD NO LATER THAN
30 APR 79 (AP BANGKOK, WP 3/18).

3. CAMBODIA/VIETNAM

ACCORDING YUGOSLAV PRESS AGENCY IN PP, PM POL POT SAID IN
3/19 INTERVIEW THAT CAMBODIA'S DISPUTE W/VN WAS OVER

BORDER ISSUES/PROPOSALS TO FORM INDOCHINESE FEDERATION. SAID HIS COUNTRY OPPOSED FEDERATION BECAUSE IT WOULD REDUCE CAMBODIA TO MINORITY. NOTED HIS '75 TALKS W/VIET LEADERS

IN HANOI ON BORDER QUESTIONS/RELS ENDED IN FAILURE, EVEN THO CAMBODIA MADE NO TERRITORIAL DEMANDS. SAID VIET DEL THAT VISITED PP IN MAY '76 REFUSED ACCEPT PREVIOUS FRONTIER AGREEMENTS BETWN 2 COUNTRIES (REUTER BELGRADE, NYT).

4. VIETNAM

WSJ REPORTS SRV NEGOTIATING W/NUMBER CANADIAN/EUROPEAN FIRMS TO TAP WHAT IT BELIEVES SIGNIFICANT PETRO RESERVES OFF COAST IN S CHINA SEA. NOTES INDUSTRY SPECIALISTS, HOWEVER, COMPLAIN THAT SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN PLENTY OF TALKING, BUT "NO ACTION." SAYS US FIRMS NOT INVOLVED, SINCE BARRED BY TRADE W/ENEMY ACT--EVEN THO THEY DRILLED 4 WELLS IN VIET CONCESSIONS BEFORE '75/ENCOUNTERED HYDROCARBONS IN ALL 4. AS NEGOTS W/CANADIAN/GERMAN/FRENCH FIRMS PROCEED, WSJ REPORTS HANOI GOING AHEAD W/PLANS UNDERTAKE ITS OWN OIL SEARCH W/AID FROM NORWAY, WHICH EXPECTED DRILL FOR PETRO-VIETNAM ON CONCESSION AREA

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PREVIOUSLY HELD BY MOBIL.

5. JAPAN

"IRON AGE" MAG REPORTS JAPAN QUOTING PRICES 15-20 PCT HIGHER THAN YR AGO FOR EXPORTED STEEL. ITEM SAYS BY 3RD QTR, JAPANESE STEEL SHOULD BE SELLING ABOVE TRIGGER PRICE (JOC).

JAPAN AUTO MFRS ASSN PREDICTS NATION'S MOTOR VEHICLE EXPORTS FY78 WILL RISE 0.4 PCT FROM ESTIMATED 4.6 MILLION UNITS IN FY77 (WSJ).

GOJ SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY AGENCY TO SPEND SOME HALF MIL DOLS OVER NEXT 3 YRS IN EFFORT DEVELOP SONIC/RADIO WAVE EQUIPMENT DESIGNED KEEP DOLPHINS AWAY FROM FISHING GROUNDS (UPI, WSTAR; REUTER, NYT, BOTH 3/19). MEANWHILE, AT LEAST 4 US SINGERS HAVE CANCELLED SCHEDULED CONCERTS/APPEARANCES AT TOKYO SONG FESTIVAL IN PROTEST AGAINST JAPANESE FISHERMEN WHO RECENTLY SLAUGHTERED DOLPHINS (WSTAR 3/17, 3/19).

6. JAPAN/PHILIPPINES

GOP WILL PUBLICLY OFFER 65.2-MIL-DOLS WORTH YEN-DOMINATED BONDS IN JAPAN BEGINNING MON (UPI, JOC).

7. CHINA

PEKING CONF OF PRC SCIENTISTS BEGAN 3/18 W/NEARLY 6,000
DELS DISCUSSING ROLE THEY WILL PLAY IN COUNTRY'S MODERNI-
ZATION PLANS. MTG REPORTED AS ONE OF LARGEST EVER HELD
IN PEKING. ACCORDING NCNA, TENG HSIAO-PING GAVE SPEECH
AT OPENING SESSION, SAID PRC HAD TO BECOME MODERN/POWER-
FUL NATION TO PREVENT RESTORATION OF CAPITALISM, COPE
W/AGGRESSION/SUBVERSION BY SUPERPOWERS. HOWEVER, HE ADDED,
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THAT INDEPENDENCE DID NOT MEAN SHUTTING DOOR ON WORLD OR
BLINDLY OPPOSING EVERYTHING FON (REUTER PEKING, NYT,
3/19 BGLOBE).

8. KOREA

FORMER REP HANNA (D-CALIF) PLEADED GUILTY 3/17 TO
CONSPIRING W/KCIA/TONGSUN PARK TO DEFRAUD USG. HANNA
FIRST PERSON CONVICTED/FIRST TO ADMIT HE ENGAGED IN
WRONGDOING WHILE IN CONGRESS SINCE INVESTIGATIONS INTO
KOREAN INFLUENCE BUYING BEGAN MORE THAN 2 YRS AGO.
NO DATE FOR SENTENCING SET. HANNA FACES POSSIBLE PRISON
TERM OF 5 YRS/FINE OF 10,000 DOLS (HALLORAN, NYT 3/18).

HANNA PLEADED GUILTY TO RECEIVING MORE THAN 200,000 DOLS
FROM TONGSUN PARK/ENTERED PLEA BEFORE US DISTRICT COURT
JUDGE 3 DAYS BEFORE SCHEDULED GO ON TRIAL ON 40 CRIMINAL
COUNTS. UNDER PLEA-BARGAINING AGREEMENT, USG RESERVES
RIGHT TO ASK FOR MAXIMUM TERM. ARRANGEMENT ALSO
SPECIFIES HANNA MUST TESTIFY TRUTHFULLY FOR GOVT--THO DOJ
OFFICIALS DON'T FEEL HIS TESTIMONY BY ITSELF IS LIKELY
LEAD TO NEW PROSECUTIONS. AMONG PROSECUTION'S SUMMARY OF
TRIAL PROOF AND EXHIBITS WAS REFERENCE TO LTR IN WHICH
HANNA REFERS TO "RIVALRY" BETWN PARK/AND AMB KIM DONG JO
AS TO WHETHER PARK OR KIM SHOULD DIRECT KOREAN LOBBYING
ACTIVITIES IN CONGRESS (ROBINSON/BABCOCK, WP 3/18).

ACCORDING DOJ BRIEF, PARK/HANNA SCHEME BEGAN IN '68 WHEN
TWO ARRANGED W/THEN-KCIA DIRECTOR KIM HYUNG WOOK TO HAVE
PARK APPOINTED ROKG'S RICE AGENT IN US. IN EXCHANGE,
PARK/HANNA PROMISED CAMPAIGN TO INFLUENCE CONGRESS. HANNA
WAS TO RECEIVE PORTION OF PARK'S COMMISSION, ESTIMATED AT
MORE THAN 9 MIL DOLS. WHILE HANNA AWARE PARK HANDING OUT
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MONEY TO OTHER MEMBERS CONGRESS, HE HIMSELF NOT INVOLVED IN
PAYMENTS. HANNA WAS TO SHOW KOREAN OFFICIALS PARK HAD
INFLUENCED CONGRESS, ACCORDING DOJ BRIEF. AS RESULT, HE
WROTE SERIES OF LTRS TO KIM HYUNG WOOK/PRES PARK PRAISING
PARK'S WORK (HOUSE, WSTAR 3/17).

ROKG SPOKESMAN IN SEOUL SAT DENIED THERE HAD BEEN ANY SECRET MTGS IN PARK HUNG HEE'S HOME TO MAP PLANS FOR COVERT LOBBYING IN US CONGRESS. DENOUNCED AS "COMPLETELY FALSE ACCUSATION" REP FRASER'S (D-MINN) STATEMENT THAT PLACE PRES PARK AT MTG WHERE LOBBYING PLANS INVOLVING TONGSUN PARK FORMULATED IN '70. REFERRING TO COMMENTS AMB PORTER QUESTIONING REPORTS' RELIABILITY, SPOKESMAN CLAIMED FRASER'S STATEMENTS "OPENLY DISPUTED" BY USG OFFICIAL (CHAPMAN, WP SEOUL 3/18).

HANCHO KIM'S TRIAL BEGAN 3/17 W/USG DESCRIBING HIM AS BRAGGART WHO KEPT 600,000 DOLS IN KOREAN FUNDS INTENDED INFLUENCE CONGRESSMEN. DEFENSE PLEADED KIM INNOCENT VICTIM OF KCIA PLOT WHO NEVER RECEIVED ANY MONEY. TRIAL CONTINUES MONDAY/MAY LAST 1 MONTH (ROBINSON, WP; O'LEARY, WSTAR, BOTH 3/18).

NK HAS DECIDED POSTPONE RED CROSS CONF W/SK ON REUNITING FAMILIES DIVIDED BY KOREAN WAR IN PROTEST AGAINST US-SK MIL MANEUVERS LAST WK. NK TERMED WAR GAMES "RECKLESS, BELLIGERENT ACT" DESIGNED HEIGHTEN TENSION/DESTROY "ATMOSPHERE FOR HUMANITARIAN TALKS" (AP, SUN).

SK PLANS BUILD 3RD PETROCHEM COMPLEX AT COST 2 BIL DOLS. PROJECT WILL BEGIN NEXT YR IN EFFORT MEET GROWING EXPORT/ DOMESITC NEEDS (AP, WSJ).

9. PACIFIC ISLANDS

ACCORDING WP'S PINCUS (3/18), USG HAS CHANGED ITS MIND UNCLASSIFIED

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ABOUT INHABITATION BIKINI ISLS. SAYS 9 YRS AGO, ISLANDERS WERE TOLD IT SAFE TO RETURN TO PREVIOUS SITE NUKE WEAPONS TESTS, BUT ARE NOW BEING TOLD GROUND WATER/FRUITS/VEGETABLES GROWN IN BIKINI SOIL STILL TOO RADIOACTIVE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. SAYS INTERIOR DEPT HAS ASKED CONGRESS FOR 15 MIL DOLS TO MOVE ISLANDERS TO ANOTHER LOCATION, SINCE FOR "FORESEEABLE FUTURE" BIKINI SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR AGRIC PURPOSES/SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED RESIDENTIAL AREA. MEANWHILE, FEEDING PROGRAM HAS BEEN PROVIDED FOR ISLANDERS WHO ARE BEING "CAREFULLY MONITORED."

PINCUS SAYS SO FAR NONE OF ISLANDERS HAS FALLEN ILL. NOTES USG SPENT 3 MIL DOLS BRINGING BACK ISLANDERS WHO LEFT BIKINI 32 YRS AGO. SAYS ENTIRE ISLAND WAS PLOWED UP, TOPSOIL REMOVED, 50,000 COCONUT TREES PLANTED, 40 HOMES BUILT. REPORTS ALL THAT WILL BE LEFT THERE AS BIKINI BECOMES LAB FOR SCIENTISTS EXPLORE NEW PROBLEMS CAUSED BY RADIATION.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

10. CHINA

WP'S MATHEWS (HK 3/18) NOTES DISPARITY IN LIVING STANDARD BETWN RURAL/URBAN PRC AND PURSUANT DIFFICULTY FOR REGIME IN KEEPING EDUCATED YOUTHS ON FARMS. NOTES I JUST CONCLUDED NPC, HUA KUO-FENG CALLED FOR NATL EFFORT GRADUALLY TO ELIMINATE DISTINCTION BETWN TOWN/COUNTRY BY MAKING RURAL AREAS MORE ATTRACTIVE. POINTS OUT HUA PROMISED IMPROVE RURAL LIFE BY GUARANTEEING PEASANTS RIGHT TO RAISE OWN PIGS/VEGETABLES, SELL THEM AT SEMI-FREE MKT/PERHAPS GIVING SOME SOFTER JOBS IN NEW SMALL RURAL FACTORIES.

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MATHEWS CITES STUDY BY US SOCIOLOGISTS PARISH/WHYTE, WHO INTERVIEWED FORMER RESIDENTS OF 63 DIFFERENT VILLAGES IN KWANGTUNG PROVINCE FLED TO HK. BASED ON INTERVIEWS, THEY CONCLUDED PRC URBAN INCOMES REMAIN ABOUT DOUBLE RURAL EARNINGS. IN ADDITION, MEDICAL CARE FOR PEASANTS ONLY PARTIALLY SUBSIDIZED/MOST RECEIVE NO PENSIONS.

11. KOREA/JAPAN

SUN'S MARTIN (SEOUL) SEES RECENT US-SK WAR GAMES AT REASSURANCE TO SK/ASIA/WARNING TO THEIR ENEMIES. NOTES AUTHORITIES INSIST MERELY COINCIDENCE THAT FILM FOOTAGE OF MANEUVERS BEING SENT US FOR TV BROADCAST AT TIME CONGRESS WEIGHING ADMIN'S 800-MIL-DOL ARMS TRANSFER PROPOSAL. REMARKS JAPAN HAD LARGEST CONTINGENT MEDIA REPS COVERING EXERCISES. STATES WHILE KOREA "HERALD" PRAISED GAMES, "ASAHI SHIMBUN" WARNED SITUATION IN ASIA COMPLEX, REQUIRING MORE THAN SIMPLY MIL BALANCE TO KEEP PEACE. PAPER URGED JAPAN "CONSIDER VERY CAREFULLY" WHAT IT REALLY MEANS IF US FORCES USE BASES IN JAPAN IN EMERGENCY SITUATION ON KOREAN PENINSULA.

12. JAPAN

HARVARD'S ROSS TERRILL SAYS IN 3/19 WSTAR COLUMN THAT WHAT UNDERLIES JAPAN-US TRADE PROBLEM IS FACT JAPANESE "ULTRA-CAUTIOUS, AND RATHER UNGENEROUS...THEY THINK THEY ARE STILL POOR." URGES TARIFF CUTS/GREATER CITRUS, BEEF IMPORTS, STATING SUCH MOVES WILL NOT ROCK JAPAN AS VIOLENTLY AS JAPANESE SEEM FEEL. OPINES JAPANESE LACK INNER SECURITY, STILL BELIEVING THEY HAVENT CAUGHT UP W/WEST.

WSJ'S THARP QUOTES MITSUBISHI BANK EXEC THAT "YEN'S APPRECIATION WILL CONTINUE INDEFINITELY." REMARKS MANY UNCLASSIFIED

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TOKYO ANALYSTS OPENLY SKEPTICAL OF GOJ'S RECENT MOVES
DESIGNED STEM YEN'S CLIMB, BELIEVING ACTIONS MERELY STOP-
GAP MEASURE. COMMENTING ON YEN'S RECORD RISE FRIDAY,
FINANCE MIN MURAYAMA TOLD NEWS CONF ECON MINS MUST WORK
OUT DRASTIC MEASURES TO REDUCE TRADE SURPLUS, BUT SENIOR
GOJ OFFICIALS SAY IMPORTS WILL NOT RISE SHARPLY UNTIL
MEASURES TO STIMULATE DOMESTIC ECON BEGIN TAKE EFFECT
(REUTER TOKYO 3/17).

JOC'S TELFER NOTES LEADING JAPANESE ECON PROF TOLD WASH-
INGTON CONF RE "CONGRESSIONAL VIEWS ON US-JAPAN ECONOMIC
RELATIONS" US SHOULD GIVE JAPAN 2 YRS TO ACHIEVE 7 PCT
GROWTH. REP STEIGER (D-WISC) TOLD GROUP TRADE WILL BE
ISSUE IN UPCOMING CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS. PREDICTED
1979 CONGRESS WILL BE MORE PROTECTIONIST THAN PRESENT ONE,
WARNING JAPANESE, "IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE PROBLEMS NOW,
YOU AINT SEEN NOTHIN' YET."

NYT'S MALCOLM (3/19) DOES LENGTHY FEATURE ITEM ON "ASAHI
SHIMBUN'S" COMPETITIVE BATTLE W/YOMIURI, MAINICHI PRESSES.
DESCRIBES ASAHI'S MASSIVE EMPIRE, WHICH MAKES IT WORLD'S
LEADER IN CIRCULATION--11.7 MILLION. TALKS W/ASAHI CHRMN
HIROOKA, WHO PRAISES COMPETITION IN JAPANESE JOURNALISM/
FINDS IT GOOD FOR JAPAN'S "NEW AND WEAK" DEMOCRACY. VANCE

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